Web Services Security
Rights Expression Language (REL)
Token Profile 1.1

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Technical Committee:
Web Services Security (WSS)

Chairs:
Kelvin Lawrence, IBM
Chris Kaler, Microsoft

Editors:
Thomas DeMartini, ContentGuard, Inc.
Anthony Nadalin, IBM
Chris Kaler, Microsoft
Ronald Monzillo, Sun
Phillip Hallam-Baker, Verisign

Abstract:
This document describes how to use ISO/IEC 21000-5 Rights Expressions with the Web Services Security (WSS) specification.

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1 Introduction (Informative)

The Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security [WS-Security] specification proposes a standard set of SOAP extensions that can be used when building secure Web services to implement message level integrity and confidentiality. This specification describes the use of ISO/IEC 21000-5 Rights Expressions with respect to the WS-Security specification.
2 Notations and Terminology (Normative)

This section specifies the notations, namespaces, and terminology used in this specification.

2.1 Notational Conventions

The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [KEYWORDS].

Namespace URIs (of the general form "some-uri") represent some application-dependent or context-dependent URI as defined in [URI].

This specification is designed to work with the general SOAP message structure and message processing model, and should be applicable to any version of SOAP. The current SOAP 1.2 namespace URI is used herein to provide detailed examples, but there is no intention to limit the applicability of this specification to a single version of SOAP.

2.2 Namespaces

The following namespaces are used in this document:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Namespace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td><a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/12/soap-envelope">http://www.w3.org/2001/12/soap-envelope</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ds</td>
<td><a href="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#">http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xenc</td>
<td><a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#">http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wsse</td>
<td><a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-secext-1.0.xsd">http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-secext-1.0.xsd</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wsu</td>
<td><a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-utility-1.0.xsd">http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-wssecurity-utility-1.0.xsd</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>urn:mpeg:mpeg21:2003:01-REL-R-NS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2.3 Terminology


Defined below are the basic definitions for additional terminology used in this specification.

**License** – ISO/IEC 21000-5 Rights Expression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sx</th>
<th>urn:mpeg:mpeg21:2003:01-REL-SX-NS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Table 1 Namespace Prefixes
3 Usage (Normative)

This section describes the syntax and processing rules for the use of licenses with the Web Services Security: Soap Message Security specification [WS-Security].

3.1 Token Types

When a URI value is used to indicate a license according to this profile, its value MUST be http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-rel-token-profile-1.0.pdf#license.

3.2 Processing Model

The processing model for WS-Security with licenses is no different from that of WS-Security with other token formats as described in Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security [WS-Security]. At the token level, a processor of licenses MUST conform to the required validation and processing rules defined in ISO/IEC 21000-5 [REL].

3.3 Attaching Security Tokens

Licenses are attached to SOAP messages using WS-Security by placing the license element inside the <wsse:Security> header. The following example illustrates a SOAP message with a license.

```xml
<S:Envelope xmlns:S="...">
  <S:Header>
    <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">
      <r:license xmlns:r="...">
        ...
      </r:license>
      ...
    </wsse:Security>
  </S:Header>
  <S:Body>
    ...
  </S:Body>
</S:Envelope>
```

3.4 Identifying and Referencing Security Tokens

The Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security [WS-Security] specification defines the wsu:Id attribute as the common mechanism for identifying security tokens (the specification describes the reasons for this). Licenses have an additional identification mechanism available: their licenseId attribute, the value of which is a URI. The following example shows a license that uses both mechanisms:

```xml
<S:Envelope xmlns:S="...">
  <S:Header>
    <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">
      <r:license xmlns:r="...">
        <licenseId>http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-rel-token-profile-1.0.pdf#license</licenseId>
        ...
      </r:license>
      ...
    </wsse:Security>
  </S:Header>
  <S:Body>
    ...
  </S:Body>
</S:Envelope>
```
Licenses can be referenced either according to their location or their licenseId. Location references are dependent on location and can be either local or remote. LicenseId references are not dependent on location.

Local location references are RECOMMENDED when they can be used. Remote location references are OPTIONAL for cases where it is not feasible to transmit licenses with the SOAP message. LicenseId references are OPTIONAL for cases where location is unknown or cannot be indicated.

WS-Security specifies that tokens are referenced using the `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` element.

Implementations compliant with this profile SHOULD set the `/wsse:SecurityTokenReference/wsse:Reference/@ValueType` attribute to `http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/oasis-wss-rel-token-profile-1.0.pdf#license` when using `wsse:SecurityTokenReference` to refer to a license by licenseId. This is OPTIONAL when referring to a license by location.

The following table demonstrates the use of the `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` element to refer to licenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Remote</th>
<th>By licenseId</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Local    | `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` <wsse:Reference URI="#SecurityToken-ef375268" />

Table 2. `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>`

The following example demonstrates how a `<wsse:SecurityTokenReference>` can be used to indicate that the message parts specified inside the `<ds:SignedInfo>` element were signed using a key from the license referenced by licenseId in the `<ds:KeyInfo>` element.

```
<S:Envelope xmlns:S="...">
  <S:Header>
  </S:Header>
</S:Envelope>
```
The following example shows a signature over a local license using a location reference to that license. The example demonstrates how the integrity of an (unsigned) license can be preserved by signing it in the <wsse:Security> header.

```
<wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">
  <r:license xmlns:r="..." xmlns:wsu="..." wsu:Id="SecurityToken-ef375268">
    ...
  </r:license>
  ...
  <ds:Signature>
    <ds:SignedInfo>
      ...
    </ds:SignedInfo>
    <ds:SignatureValue>...</ds:SignatureValue>
    <ds:KeyInfo>
      <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
        <wsse:Reference URI="#SecurityToken-ef375268"/>
      </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
    </ds:KeyInfo>
    <ds:Signature>
      <wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
        <wsse:Reference URI="#SecurityToken-ef375268"/>
      </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
    </ds:Signature>
    ...
  </ds:Signature>
</wsse:Security>
```

The following example shows a signature over a local license using a location reference to that license. The example demonstrates how the integrity of an (unsigned) license can be preserved by signing it in the <wsse:Security> header.

```
<S:Envelope xmlns:S="...">
  <S:Header>
    <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">
      <r:license xmlns:r="..." xmlns:wsu="..." wsu:Id="SecurityToken-ef375268">
        ...
      </r:license>
      ...
      <wsse:SecurityTokenReference wsu:Id="Str1">
        <wsse:Reference URI="#SecurityToken-ef375268"/>
      </wsse:SecurityTokenReference>
      ...
      <ds:Signature>
        <ds:SignedInfo>
          ...
          <Reference URI="#Str1">
            <Transforms>
              <ds:Transform>
                <ds:CanonicalizationMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#CanonicalizationMethod"/>
                ...
              <Transforms>
```

186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211
212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240

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241  </ds:Transforms>
242  <ds:DigestMethod
243      Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"
244  />
245  <ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>
246  </ds:Reference>
247  </ds:SignedInfo>
248  <ds:SignatureValue>...</ds:SignatureValue>
249  <ds:KeyInfo>...</ds:KeyInfo>
250  </ds:Signature>
251  </wsse:Security>
252  </S:Header>
253  <S:Body>
254   ...
255  </S:Body>
256  </S:Envelope>

Note: since licenses allow the use of the wsu:Id attribute, it is usually not necessary to use the
STR-Transform because the license can be referred to directly in the ds:SignedInfo as shown in
the following example:

<Envelope xmlns:S="...">
  <Header>
    <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">
      <r:license xmlns:r="..." xmlns:wsu="..." wsu:Id="SecurityToken-ef375268">
        ...
      </r:license>
      ...
      <Signature>
        <SignedInfo>
          ...
          <Reference URI="#SecurityToken-ef375268">
            <DigestMethod
              Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"
            />
            <DigestValue>...</DigestValue>
          </Reference>
        </SignedInfo>
        <SignatureValue>...</SignatureValue>
        <KeyInfo>...</KeyInfo>
      </Signature>
    </wsse:Security>
  </Header>
  <Body>
    ...
  </Body>
</Envelope>

3.5 Authentication

how claim confirmation must be performed. As well, the REL allows for multiple types of
confirmation. This profile of WS-Security REQUIRES that message senders and receivers
support claim confirmation for <keyHolder> principals. It is RECOMMENDED that an XML
Signature be used to establish the relationship between the message sender and the claims. This is especially RECOMMENDED whenever the SOAP message exchange is conducted over an unprotected transport.

The following table enumerates the mandatory principals to be supported by claim confirmation and summarizes their associated processing models. It should be noted that this table is not all-encompassing, and it is envisioned that future specifications may expand this table over time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED Processing Rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;r:keyHolder&gt;</td>
<td>The message sender adds (to the security header) an XML Signature that can be verified with the key information specified in the &lt;r:keyHolder&gt; of the referenced license.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Processing Rules for Claim Confirmation

Note that the high-level processing model described in the following sections does not differentiate between message author and message sender as would be necessary to guard against replay attacks. The high-level processing model also does not take into account requirements for authentication of receiver by sender or for message or token confidentiality. These concerns must be addressed by means other than those described in the high-level processing model. If confidentiality of the token in the message is important, then use the approach defined by [WS-Security] to encrypt the token.

3.5.1 <r:keyHolder> Principal

The following sections describe the <r:keyHolder> method of establishing the correspondence between a SOAP message sender and the claims within a license.

Sender

The message sender MUST include within the <wsse:Security> header element a <r:license> containing at least one <r:grant> to an <r:keyHolder> identifying the key to be used to confirm the claims. If the message sender includes an <r:license> containing more than one <r:grant> to an <r:keyHolder>, then all of those <r:keyHolder> elements MUST be equal.

In order for the receiver to perform claim confirmation, the sender MUST demonstrate knowledge of the confirmation key. The sender MAY accomplish this by using the confirmation key to sign content from within the message and by including the resulting <ds:Signature> element in the <wsse:Security> header element. <ds:Signature> elements produced for this purpose MUST conform to the canonicalization and token inclusion rules defined in the core WS-Security specification and this profile specification.

Licenses that contain at least one <r:grant> to an <r:keyHolder> SHOULD contain an <r:issuer> with a <ds:Signature> element that identifies the license issuer to the relying party and protects the integrity of the confirmation key established by the license issuer.
If the receiver determines that the sender has demonstrated knowledge of a confirmation key as specified in an `<r:keyHolder>`, then the claims (found in the licenses) pertaining to that `<r:keyHolder>` MAY be attributed to the sender. If one of these claims is an identity and if the conditions of that claim are satisfied, then any elements of the message whose integrity is protected by the confirmation key MAY be considered to have been authored by that identity.

**Example**

The following example illustrates how a license security token having an `<r:keyHolder>` principal can be used with a `<ds:Signature>` to establish that John Doe is requesting a stock report on FOO.

```
<S:Envelope xmlns:S="..."

<S:Header>
<r:license xmlns:r="..."
licenseId="urn:foo:SecurityToken:ef375268">
<r:grant>
<r:keyHolder>
<r:info>
<ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
</r:info>
</r:keyHolder>
<r:possessProperty/>
<sx:commonName xmlns:sx="...">John Doe</sx:commonName>
</r:grant>
<r:issuer>
<ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
</r:issuer>
</r:license>
</S:Header>

<ds:Signature>
<ds:SignedInfo>
..<ds:Reference URI="#MsgBody">
<ds:DigestMethod
Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
<ds:DigestValue>...</ds:DigestValue>
</ds:Reference>
</ds:SignedInfo>
<ds:SignatureValue>...</ds:SignatureValue>
</ds:Signature>
```
3.6 Confidentiality

This section details how licenses may be used to protect the confidentiality of a SOAP message within WS-Security. The Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security [WS-Security] specification does not dictate how confidentiality must be performed. As well, the REL allows for multiple types of confidentiality. This profile of WS-Security REQUIRES that message senders and receivers support confidentiality for <r:keyHolder> principals. It is RECOMMENDED that XML Encryption be used to ensure confidentiality. This is especially RECOMMENDED whenever the SOAP message exchange is conducted over an unprotected transport.

The following table enumerates the mandatory principals to be supported for confidentiality and summarizes their associated processing models. It should be noted that this table is not all-encompassing, and it is envisioned that future specifications may expand this table over time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED Processing Rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;r:keyHolder&gt;</td>
<td>The message sender adds (to the security header) either 1) an <a href="">xenc:ReferenceList</a> that points to one or more <a href="">xenc:EncryptedData</a> elements that can be decrypted with a key which can be determined from information specified in the &lt;r:keyHolder&gt; of the referenced license or 2) an <a href="">xenc:EncryptedKey</a> that can be decrypted with a key determined from information specified in the &lt;r:keyHolder&gt; of the referenced license.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Processing Rules for Confidentiality

Note that this section deals only with Confidentiality. Details of authentication of the sender by the receiver must be addressed by means other than those described in this section (see the previous section).
3.6.1 <r:keyHolder> Principal

The following sections describe the <r:keyHolder> method of establishing confidentiality using a license.

Sender

The message sender MUST include within the <wsse:Security> header element a <r:license> containing at least one <r:grant> to an <r:keyHolder> identifying the key used to encrypt some data or key. If the message sender includes an <r:license> containing more than one <r:grant> to an <r:keyHolder>, then all of those <r:keyHolder> elements MUST be equal.

In order for the receiver to know when to decrypt the data or key, the sender MUST indicate the encryption in the message. The sender MAY accomplish this by placing an <xenc:EncryptedData> or <xenc:EncryptedKey> in the appropriate place in the message and by including the resulting <xenc:ReferenceList> or <xenc:EncryptedKey> element in the <wsse:Security> header element. <xenc:ReferenceList> or <xenc:EncryptedKey> elements produced for this purpose MUST conform to the rules defined in the core WS-Security specification and this profile specification.

Receiver

If the receiver determines that he has knowledge of a decryption key as specified in an <r:keyHolder>, then he MAY decrypt the associated data or key. In the case of decrypting a key, he may then recursively decrypt any data or key that that key can decrypt.

Example

The following example illustrates how a license containing a <r:keyHolder> principal can be used with XML encryption schema elements to protect the confidentiality of a message using a separate encryption key given in the <xenc:EncryptedKey> in the security header.

In this example, the <r:license> element provides information about the recipient's RSA public key (i.e., KeyValue in keyHolder) used to encrypt the symmetric key carried in the EncryptedKey element. The recipient uses this information to determine the correct private key to use in decrypting the symmetric key. The symmetric key is then used to decrypt the EncryptedData child of the Body element.

```
<S:Envelope xmlns:S="...">
  <S:Header>
    <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="...">
      <r:license xmlns:r="..." licenseId="urn:foo:SecurityToken:ef375268">
        <r:grant>
          <r:keyHolder>
            <r:info>
              <ds:KeyValue>...</ds:KeyValue>
            </r:info>
          </r:keyHolder>
        </r:grant>
      </r:license>
    </wsse:Security>
  </S:Header>
</S:Envelope>
```
3.7 Error Codes

It is RECOMMENDED that the error codes defined in the Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security [WS-Security] specification are used. However, implementations MAY use custom errors, defined in private namespaces if they desire. Care should be taken not to introduce security vulnerabilities in the errors returned.

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4 Types of Licenses (Informative)

4.1 Attribute Licenses

In addition to key information, licenses can carry information about attributes of those keys. Examples of such information on a client are e-mail address or common name. A service's key, on the other hand, might be associated with a DNS name and common name.

The following is an example client attribute license.

```
<r:license xmlns:r="..." licenseId="urn:foo:SecurityToken:ef375268">
  <r:inventory>
    <r:keyHolder licensePartId="client">
      <r:info>
        <ds:KeyValue>FDFEWEFF…</ds:KeyValue>
      </r:info>
    </r:keyHolder>
  </r:inventory>

  <r:grant>
    <r:keyHolder licensePartIdRef="client"/>
    <r:possessProperty/>
    <sx:commonName>John Doe</sx:commonName>
  </r:grant>

  <r:grant>
    <r:keyHolder licensePartIdRef="client"/>
    <r:possessProperty/>
    <sx:emailName>jd@foo.com</sx:emailName>
  </r:grant>

  <r:issuer>
    <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
  </r:issuer>
</r:license>
```

The following is an example service attribute license.

```
<r:license xmlns:r="..." licenseId="urn:foo:SecurityToken:ef375268">
  <r:inventory>
    <r:keyHolder licensePartId="service">
      <r:info>
        <ds:KeyValue>FDFEWEFF…</ds:KeyValue>
      </r:info>
    </r:keyHolder>
  </r:inventory>

  <r:grant>
    <r:keyHolder licensePartIdRef="service"/>
    <r:possessProperty/>
    <sx:commonName>MyService Company</sx:commonName>
  </r:grant>

  <r:grant>
    <r:keyHolder licensePartIdRef="service"/>
    <r:possessProperty/>
    <sx:dnsName>www.myservice.com</sx:dnsName>
  </r:grant>

  <r:issuer>
    <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
  </r:issuer>
</r:license>
```
Additional examples of and processing rules for the use of attribute licenses can be found in the above sections on Authentication and Confidentiality.

4.2 Sender Authorization

Licenses may be used by a sender as proof of authorization to perform a certain action on a particular resource. This WS-Security specification does not describe how authorization must be performed. In the context of web services, a sender can send to a receiver an authorization license in the security header as proof of authorization to call the sender. Typically, this authorization license is signed by a trusted authority and conforms to the syntax pattern specified below.

```
<rl:license xmlns:rl="..." licenseId="urn:foo:SecurityToken:ef375268">
  <rl:grant>
    <rl:forAll varName='K'/>
    <rl:forAll varName='P'/>
    <rl:keyHolder>
      <rl:info>
      <ds:KeyValue>FDWEWFF...</ds:KeyValue>
      </rl:info>
    </rl:keyHolder>
    <sx:rightUri definition='...'/>
    <x:someResource/>
    <x:someCondition/>
  </rl:grant>
  <rl:issuer>
    <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
  </rl:issuer>
</rl:license>
```

The above license contains an authorization grant authorizing the keyholder (sender's public key), the right to exercise the right identified in the `<sx:rightUri>` element. The resource in the license typically corresponds to the semantics of the URI given in the definition attribute of the `<sx:rightUri>` element. The entire license along with the `<ds:Signature>` element in the `<rl:issuer>` certifies the fact that the principal (keyholder) is granted the authorization to exercise the right in the `<sx:rightUri>` element over the specified resource. The integrity of the license is usually protected with a digital signature contained within the `<ds:Signature>`.

4.3 Issuer Authorization

To enunciate that a particular issuer is allowed to issue particular types of licenses, one can use the kind of license described here. Issuer authorization licenses can accompany other licenses in the security header such as those used for authentication, sender authorization, or other issuer authorizations. These issuer authorization licenses might help complete the authorization proof that is required for authorizing or authenticating a particular sender.

```
<rl:license xmlns:rl="..." licenseId="urn:foo:SecurityToken:ef375268">
  <rl:grant>
    <rl:forAll varName='K'/>
    <rl:forAll varName='P'/>
    <rl:keyHolder>
      <rl:info>
      <ds:KeyValue>FDWEWFF...</ds:KeyValue>
      </rl:info>
    </rl:keyHolder>
    <sx:rightUri definition='...'/>
    <x:someResource/>
    <x:someCondition/>
  </rl:grant>
  <rl:issuer>
    <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
  </rl:issuer>
</rl:license>
```
The following license is an example issuer authorization license for authorizing an issuer to issue
sender authorization licenses.

```xml
<license xmlns:r="..." licenseId="urn:foo:SecurityToken:ef375268">
  <grant>
    <forall varName='K'/>
    <forall varName='R'/>
    <keyHolder>
      <info>
        <ds:KeyValue>FDFEWEFF…</ds:KeyValue>
      </info>
    </keyHolder>
    <issue/>
    <grant>
      <forall varName='K'/>
      <forall varName='P'/>
      <keyHolder varRef='I'/>
    </grant>
  </grant>
  <issuer>
    <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
  </issuer>
</license>
```

The following license is an example issuer authorization license for authorizing an issuer to issue
(to other issuers) issuer authorization licenses allowing those other issuers to issue simple
attribute licenses, such as those that can be used for authentication or confidentiality.

```xml
<license xmlns:r="..." licenseId="urn:foo:SecurityToken:ef375268">
  <grant>
    <forall varName='I'/>
    <info>
      <ds:KeyValue>FDFEWEFF…</ds:KeyValue>
    </info>
  </grant>
  <keyHolder>
    <issue/>
  </grant>
  <grant>
    <forall varName='K'/>
    <forall varName='P'/>
    <keyHolder varRef='I'/>
  </grant>
  <issuer>
    <ds:Signature>...</ds:Signature>
  </issuer>
</license>
```
5 Threat Model and Countermeasures
(Informative)

This section addresses the potential threats that a SOAP message may encounter and the
countermeasures that may be taken to thwart such threats. A SOAP message containing licenses
may face threats in various contexts. This includes the cases where the message is in transit,
being routed through a number of intermediaries, or during the period when the message is in
storage.

The use of licenses with WS-Security introduces no new threats beyond those identified for the
REL or WS-Security with other types of security tokens. Message alteration and eavesdropping
can be addressed by using the integrity and confidentiality mechanisms described in WS-
Security. Replay attacks can be addressed by using of message timestamps and caching, as well
as other application-specific tracking mechanisms. For licenses, ownership is verified by the use
of keys; man-in-the-middle attacks are generally mitigated. It is strongly RECOMMENDED that all
relevant and immutable message data be signed. It should be noted that transport-level security
MAY be used to protect the message and the security token. In order to trust licenses, they
SHOULD be signed natively and/or using the mechanisms outlined in WS-Security. This allows
readers of the licenses to be certain that the licenses have not been forged or altered in any way.
It is strongly RECOMMENDED that the <r:license> elements be signed (either within the token,
as part of the message, or both).

The following few sections elaborate on the afore-mentioned threats and suggest
countermeasures.

5.1 Eavesdropping

Eavesdropping is a threat to the confidentiality of the message, and is common to all types of
network protocols. The routing of SOAP messages through intermediaries increases the potential
incidences of eavesdropping. Additional opportunities for eavesdropping exist when SOAP
messages are persisted.

To provide maximum protection from eavesdropping, licenses, license references, and sensitive
message content SHOULD be encrypted such that only the intended audiences can view their
content. This removes threats of eavesdropping in transit, but does not remove risks associated
with storage or poor handling by the receiver.

Transport-layer security MAY be used to protect the message from eavesdropping while in
transport, but message content must be encrypted above the transport if it is to be protected from
eavesdropping by intermediaries.

5.2 Replay

The reliance on authority protected (e.g. signed) licenses to <r:keyHolder> principals precludes
all but the key holder from binding the licenses to a SOAP message. Although this mechanism
effectively restricts message authorship to the holder of the confirmation key, it does not preclude
the capture and resubmission of the message by other parties.

Replay attacks can be addressed by using message timestamps and caching, as well as other
application-specific tracking mechanisms.

5.3 Message Insertion

This profile of WS-Security is not vulnerable to message insertion attacks. Higher-level protocols
built on top of SOAP and WS-Security should avoid introducing message insertion threats and
provide proper countermeasures for any they do introduce.

5.4 Message Deletion

This profile of WS-Security is not vulnerable to message deletion attacks other than denial of
service. Higher-level protocols built on top of SOAP and WS-Security should avoid introducing
message deletion threats and provide proper countermeasures for any they do introduce.

5.5 Message Modification

Message Modification poses a threat to the integrity of a message. The threat of message
modification can be thwarted by signing the relevant and immutable content by the key holder.
The receivers SHOULD only trust the integrity of those segments of the message that are signed
by the key holder.

To ensure that message receivers can have confidence that received licenses have not been
forged or altered since their issuance, licenses appearing in <wsse:Security> header elements
SHOULD be integrity protected (e.g. signed) by their issuing authority. It is strongly
RECOMMENDED that a message sender sign any <r:license> elements that it is confirming and
that are not signed by their issuing authority.

Transport-layer security MAY be used to protect the message and contained licenses and/or
license references from modification while in transport, but signatures are required to extend such
protection through intermediaries.

5.6 Man-in-the-Middle

This profile of WS-Security is not vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks. Higher-level protocols
built on top of SOAP and WS-Security should avoid introducing Man-in-the-Middle threats and
provide proper countermeasures for any they do introduce.
6 References


Appendix A: Acknowledgements

Contributors:

Maneesh Sahu Actional Corporation
Gene Thurston AmberPoint
Frank Siebenlist Argonne National Laboratory
Hal Lockhart BEA Systems, Inc.
Corinna Witt BEA Systems, Inc.
Steve Anderson BMC
Richard Levinson Computer Associates
Davanum Srinivas Computer Associates
Thomas DeMartini ContentGuard, Inc.
Guillemo Lao ContentGuard, Inc.
TJ Pannu ContentGuard, Inc.
Xin Wang ContentGuard, Inc.
Merlin Hughes Cybertrust
Sam Wei Documentum
Tim Moses Entrust
Carolina Canales-Valenzuela Ericsson
Dana Kaufman Forum Systems, Inc.
Toshihiro Nishimura Fujitsu Limited
Kefeng Chen GeoTrust
Irving Reid Hewlett-Packard
Kojiro Nakayama Hitachi
Paula Austel IBM
Derek Fu IBM
Maryann Hondo IBM
Kelvin Lawrence IBM
Hiroshi Maruyama IBM
Michael McIntosh IBM
Anthony Nadalin IBM
Nataraj Nagaratnam IBM
Ron Williams IBM
Don Flinn Individual
Bob Morgan Internet2
Kate Cherry Lockheed Martin
Paul Cotton Microsoft Corporation
Vijay Gajjala Microsoft Corporation
Alain Geler Microsoft Corporation
Martin Gudgin Microsoft Corporation
Chris Kaler Microsoft Corporation
John Shewchuk Microsoft Corporation
Jeff Hodges Neustar, Inc.
Frederick Hirsch Nokia
Senthil Sengodan Nokia
Abbie Barbir Nortel Networks
Lloyd Burch Novell
Charles Knouse Oblix
Vamsi Motukuru Oracle

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## Appendix B: Revision History

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<td>01</td>
<td>27-May-2005</td>
<td>Initial draft based on REL Token Profile 1.0, updated for 1.1.</td>
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